(c) whether any State Government has any proposal to start their own TV Channels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Recently the State Government of West Bengal had made a proposal to start their own TV Channel which could not be agreed to as it did not fall within the extant policy.

Strengthening the Prasar Bharati Board

57. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are of the view that Prasar Bharati experiment has failed and the Act has to be scrapped;

(b) if so, the details therof; and

(c) if not, what steps are being taken to strengthen the Prasar Bharati Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) In order to improve of functioning of Prasar Bharati in terms of quality of its services, credibility and professionalism, a Committee has been constituted to study the working of Prasar Bharati, and make appropriate recommendations in regard to its organisational structure, legal framework, system and other relevant areas.

Reservation for other Castes

†58. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have also decided to provide reservation for other castes in the country;

† Original notice of the Question, was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of such castes, alongwith the basis for the reservation;

(c) what are the modalities of providing reservation; and

(d) what will be the percentage of seats proposed to be reserved out of total seats if any amendement in the Constitution is required?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. There is no proposal to provide reservation for other castes.

Increasing attacks on SCs & STs

59. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the steps taken by Government to stop increasing attacks against SCs and STs;

(b) whether Government will help the SCs/STs to approach the Human Rights Commission against the human right violations being committed by upper caste Hindus against them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MAKEKA GANDHI):(a) Ministry of Home Affairs in their circular No. 24013/47/98-GPA, VI dated 12.11.98 addressed to the Chief Secretaries of the States/UT Administrations have reiterated their advice to give more focussed attention for improving administration of criminal justice system to ensure prevention of atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(b) and (c) Functions of the National Human Rights Commission have been laid down under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 and the Govt. will perform its duties accordingly.

Two glass system

60. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that "two glass system" is prevailing